Starting of a Paper Mill in Malabar

* 147 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to a supplementary question on question No. 3357 on 9th March 1956 whether the Government have finally decided to start a Paper Mill in Malabar?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Not yet, Sir.

Sri K. KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE : May I know, Sir, whether the Government had given due consideration to the proposal for starting a paper mill in Nilambur and, if so, what is the decision they have arrived at?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the proposal relates to the making of writing paper. As I have explained in this House once before, it is the policy of the Government of India that this industry should go to the private sector. Therefore, if any one from the private sector would come forward, Government will consider the proposal and see what facilities can be extended to him.

Sri K. V. RAMASWAMI : நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் தனியாக பேப்பர் மில்லை ஆரம்பிப்பதற்கு யாராவது விண்ணப்பம் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்களா ? அப்படியானால் அந்த விஷயம் எந்த நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறதென்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் தெரிவிக்க முடியுமா ?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : அதைப்பற்றி தனியாக ஒரு கேள்வி கேட்டால் சொல்ல முடியும்.

Sri K. KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, there are proposals to start a paper mill in the Nilgiris district somewhere near the Malabar district. May I know whether that suggestion is going to materialise and whether the Government are going to start a paper mill in the Nilgiris district?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Relating to the Nilgiris district, there are two proposals regarding paper manufacture. One relates to the making of writing paper and that will go to the private sector. The other relates to the making of newsprint and that will go to the public sector. The Government of India have been examining this question in consultation with this Government.

Sri K. KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, as far as the starting of a mill for manufacturing newsprint in Malabar is concerned, my information is that experts from East Germany and other places have gone into the question and have made some suggestions to the Government. May I know, Sir, whether my information is correct? If so, may I know whether the Government have come to any decision?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The raw materials that are needed for making newsprint are wood like wattle, blue

gum, etc., which are available in the Nilgiris but not in the Malabar district. What the experts are reported to have examined in Malabar is the question regarding the making of writing paper from out of bamboo, etc.

Cost of living

* 148 *Q.*—Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of living in the months of April and May 1956 in the State?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The rise in the cost of living during the months of April and May 1956 is due to the rise in the price of rice and other essential commodities. The steps taken by the Government to bring down the rise in prices of rice and other essential commodities and thus to reduce the cost of living index have been furnished in the statement placed on the table of the House with reference to the starred question No. 8 asked by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A. (answered on 9th August 1956).

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, do the Government propose to start fair price shops for selling rice in the City of Madras and, if so, when that proposal will be put into execution?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Already the T.U.C.S. has been asked to start fair price shops for selling the rice that is supplied by the Government, and that society has been doing it. In addition, it has been proposed to start 55 fair price shops to be run by private merchants who are not dealing in rice. Out of this 55, 37 shops have already been started.

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know, Sir, whether, as a result of the measures taken by the Government, the price trend has gone upward or downward?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may say this much, Sir, that as a result of the efforts of the Government, so far the upward price trend has been considerably checked.

* Sri K. R. NALLASIVAM : விலைவாசி தூக்குதலாக இருக்கிற வரையில் நூறு ரூபாய் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கெல்லாமாவது நியாயவிலைக் கடைகள் மூலம் அரிசி விநியோகிக்க அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா ?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : நூறு ரூபாய் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கு மட்டும் என்ன ? விநியோகிப்பதற்கு ஏராளமான அரிசி இருப்பதால் மற்ற ஏழை மக்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் கிடைக்கச் செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்படும்.

Sri S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH : Sir, are the Government aware that distress condition is prevalent in Kollegal taluk for the past three and a half months and that the people are clamouring for the opening of fair price shops, and yet the Government have not taken any action in the matter?